

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1239

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, PINT, CH

SUBJ: LOYANG TRACTOR FACTORY

REF: PEKING 1007

1. USLO OFFICER JUNE 17 VISITED LOYANG TUNG FANG HUNG TRACTOR FACTORY, WHICH HAS RESUMED TOURS FOR FOREIGNERS WITHIN LAST FEW WEEKS. BRIEFER, A "LEADING MEMBER" OF THE FACTORY'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, REPEATED THE CLAIM MADE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY (REFTEL) THAT FACTORY IN 1976 FULFILLED ONLY ONE-FOURTH OF STATE PLAN.

2. FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, THE BRIEFER SAID, THE FACTORY HAD "HALF STOPPED" PRODUCTION OWING TO DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY THE GANG OF FOUR. AT PRESENT THE SITUATION WAS OF COURSE EXCELLENT; ALL TARGETS HAD BEEN FULFILLED IN THE PERIOD JANUARY-MAY 1977 AND THE FACTORY WAS GOING ALL OUT TO PRODUCE MORE TRACTORS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING FROM TACHING AND IN SUPPORT OF ACHIEVING MECHANIZATION IN AGRICULTURE BY 1980 AND THE FOUR MODERNIZATIONS BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. BRIEFER DID NOT PROVIDE 1977 PRODUCTION TARGETS BUT SAID FACTORY HAD PRODUCED
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22,000 TRACTORS IN 1975, THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW IT HAD OVERFULFILLED ITS QUOTAS. (USLO OFFICER WHO VISITED FACTORY IN AUGUST 1975 WAS TOLD 1974 OUTPUT HAD BEEN "OVER 22,000" --16,000 75 HP CATERPILLAR TRACTORS, 2,600 60 HP BULLDOZERS AND 6,000 40 HP TRACTORS.) CLAIMED PRODUCTION OF 75 HP TRACTORS WAS 60 TO 70 PER DAY (TWO SHIFTS).

3. ASKED FOR SPECIFIC ILLUSTRATIONS OF HOW THE "GANG OF FOUR" HAD DISRUPTED PRODUCTION, BRIEFER QUOTED SOME OF THE FAMILIAR SLOGANS ATTRIBUTED TO THE GANG IN THE NATIONAL PRESS AND ADDED THAT THE GANG IN ATTACKING "LEADING MEMBERS" OF THE FACTORY HAD SAID ANYONE MAKING OVER 100 YUAN PER MONTH WAS A "CAPITALIST ROADER". HE ALSO CITED A VICE-DIRECTOR OF ONE WORKSHOP WHO WAS AROUND SO LITTLE THE WORKERS CALLED HIM THE "VISITING DIRECTOR". THE GANG, HOWEVER, ACCLAIMED HIM AS A "100 PERCENT REVOLUTIONARY".

4. IN THE FOUR DEPARTMENTS VISITED ON THE TOUR -- ENGINE ASSEMBLY, PRECISION CASTING, FUEL PUMP ASSEMBLY AND 75 HP CATERPILLAR TRACTOR ASSEMBLY--WORK WAS PROCEEDING IN AN UNHURRIED FASHION.

5. ESCORTS POINTED WITH PARTICULAR PRIDE TO FUEL PUMP WHICH IS LIGHTER AND MORE COMPACT THAN THE RUSSIAN-DESIGNED ONE FROM THE FACTORY'S ORIGINAL PRODUCT, THE 54 HP CATERPILLAR TRACTOR. (SOVIETS' "TEARING UP" CONTRACTS AND WITHDRAWAL OF TECHNICIANS IN 1960 WERE MENTIONED IN THE BRIEFING, THOUGH FACTORY WAS COMPLETED AND WENT INTO PRODUCTION IN 1959). THIS NEW PUMP, THEY SAID, IS USED IN ALL THE LOYANG TRACTORS AND IS A "UNIFIED" (STANDARDIZED) MODEL FOR ALL CHINA. ONE ESCORT SAID THAT ONLY 10 PERCENT, OVERALL, OF THE FACTORY'S CURRENT EQUIPMENT HAD COME FROM ABROAD, BUT MUCH SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN EQUIPMENT WAS IN EVIDENCE.

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6. DAY BEFORE VISIT TOOK PLACE, CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE SHOWED USLO OFFICER A NOTE FROM HEAD OF U.S. SOCIAL WORKERS DELEGATION WHICH HAD VISITED FACTORY RECENTLY, SUGGESTING THAT MR. WOODCOCK WOULD ENJOY SEEING THE FACTORY AND WOULD BE ABLE TO POINT OUT WAYS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY.
THOMAS

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